

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4692
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2013
VIOLATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS
Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia;Patel Shri Bal Kumar

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government/Ministry has received reports of non-processing of the proposals for environmental and forest clearance by the State Governments/coal companies and not launching prosecution against company officials involved in violation of environmental laws at the project sites in various States including in Lajkura Expansion Phase I and Belpahar Expansion, both falling in Jharsuguda, Odisha;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year, State/company-wise; and

(c) the punitive action taken by the Government in each complaint along with the reasons for pendency of complaints, if any?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL)

(a) to (c): Applications for forestry clearances (FC) are submitted to concerned state Govt. authorities for necessary processing leading to final approval of the proposal for such projects where forest land is involved. Similarly, environmental clearance (EC) proposals, in prescribed formats are submitted to Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) for Terms of Reference (TOR) and then draft Environmental Management Plan (EMP) is submitted to concerned state authorities for further necessary actions on completion of public hearing.

During last three years, Stage-II forestry clearance has been obtained for 21 forestry proposals wherein the average pendency was about 7 years. Similarly 65 environmental proposals were given final clearance during last three years wherein average pendency was about 3 years.

As on date 187 forestry proposals are awaiting clearance at various levels. Out of these, 137 proposals are awaiting clearances at state level and balance 50 proposals are awaiting clearance at MOEF level.

Similarly, 54 Environmental clearance proposals are awaiting clearance at various levels. Out of which 10 are awaiting for TOR at MOEF level, 13 proposals are waiting for public consultation at State level, 16 proposals are waiting for Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) meeting and 15 proposals are waiting for final clearance both at MOEF level.

In view of delays in obtaining clearances, in some cases, in the National interest to meet rising coal demand, coal production was enhanced beyond the sanctioned EC capacity in a few projects pending clearances. However, MOEF has written to state authorities to initiate action against officials of such projects.

As regard to Lajkura Expansion and Belpahar Expansion OC falling in Jharsuguda district of Odisha, the details are as below :

Sl.	No.	Name of Project	Date of the Ref. No. & Ref. No. & date of EAC (T&C) date of grant of EC meeting the complaint
		EC was petition recommended filed in the SDJM court by Collector	

1 Lajkura OC Expn. 63rd meeting No. 2(c)cc No. J-11015/423/2008-3.0 Mty held on 17th 288/13 dated LA, II (M) dated - 18th Dec 23-02-2013 12-03-2013 .., 2012

2 Belpahar OC Expn. 37th meeting No. 2(c) J-11015/189/
6.0 Mty held on 28th cc No. 2008-LA. II
-29th Nov. 170/13 (M) dated 25-02-2013
2011 dated
11-02-2013